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He has a keen intellect. His hobbies are painting and writing verse, and he has a profound knowledge of music, poetry and Oriental culture. His English is fluent, but like his French, is always un-understandable because of his quickness of utterance and, in English, his peculiar intonation. He also believes that the U.K. will ask for admission to the Rome Treaty club, but will delay doing so for some months.

April 17, 1961 - Monday

There was a large flow of telegrams this morning about the situation in Laos. They seem to add up to there being chaos in Laos. [redacted] and meanwhile, we are proceeding with our plans to attach Americans in uniform to Laotian combat units.

B/E B

April 18, 1961 - Tuesday

I called on Ricardo Rivera Schreiber, the Peruvian Ambassador. He has spent altogether 21 years in London, the last seven as Ambassador. He told me he was resigning his post about the first of next January, in order to take his two sons back to Peru and establish them there. He says they speak five languages, and in some cases, are more proficient in foreign tongues than in their native Spanish. He wants them to identify themselves fully with their own country. He has an engaging personality and seems to be warmly pro-American and pro-British.

We talked about the invasion of Cuba by counter-revolutionaries. The press is full of accounts of it today, but it is not yet clear what has really happened. Raul Castro is reputed to

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have been captured. Brother Fidel as usual blames it all on the U.S. B-25 bombers of the Cuban Air Force used by the rebels are seeking sanctuary in Miami and in Grand Cayman, an island off Jamaica. This makes for frequent talk between ourselves and the British government. Rivera discoursed at length on the subject of the Peruvian-Ecuadorian border dispute. He blames this to some extent on the friendliness of the new Ecuadorian regime to the Soviet government.

This is copy of my conversation with the Peruvian Ambassador, which was sent to Mr. Galbraith in the Political, Far Eastern Section of the Embassy:

"I saw the Peruvian Ambassador this morning. He is, as reported, loquacious. He had read the President's remarks at the Pan American Union on Friday, April 14, and commented favorably upon them. He thinks a program involving experts in various fields is a good one, and would like each country to come up with its own requirements. He believes certain regional associations in South America would eventually be desirable, but commented acidly on the national jealousies prevalent there that make such cooperation difficult.

[redacted]

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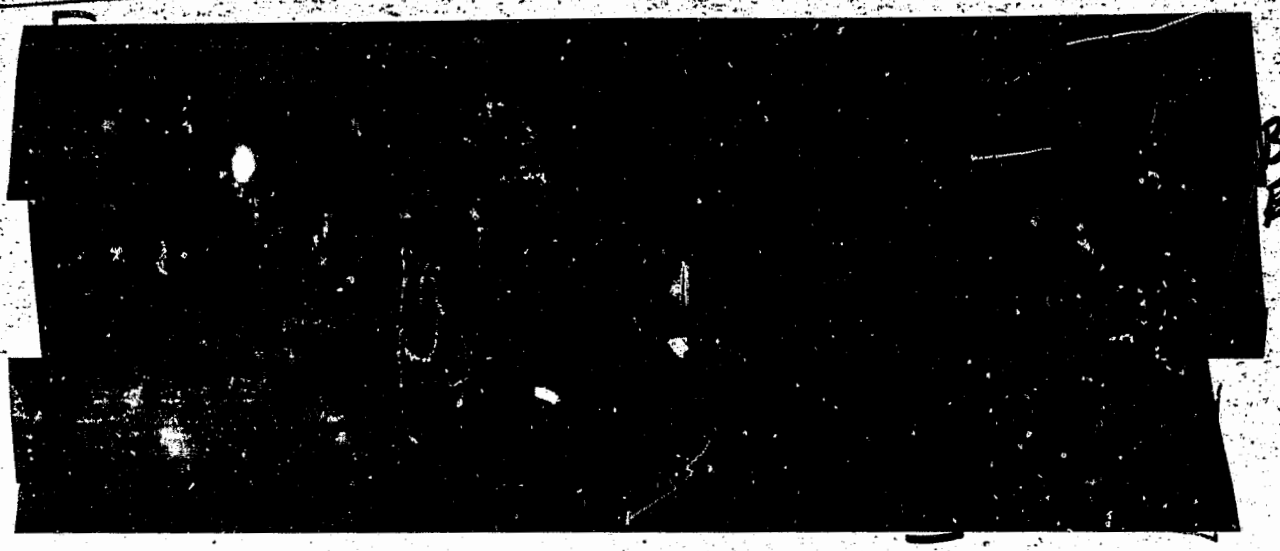

Leaving there, I went around the corner to call on the Austrian Ambassador, Prince Johannes Schwarzenberg. I had last seen him many years ago when he was Minister to Italy. He and his wife are unusually attractive. He talked about the possibility of the U.K. adhering to the Rome Treaty. He has little confidence in the future trend of European politics, especially after deGaulle and Adenauer pass off the scene, unless the British participate in the formulation of policy.

Jack Corbett came to see me. He has lately been making a survey in Bolivia with particular attention to tin mining there. I am sorry he ever left the State Department, since he is an unusually capable man. He has been established for the last 3-1/2 years in Rome.

Carleton Smith of the National Arts Foundation came to see me.

At 5:30 I called on the Italian Ambassador, Count Vittorio Zoppi. I had not seen him since he was Secretary General of the Foreign Office, a post he held with distinction from 1948-55. Zoppi talked to me about the possibility of the U.K. joining the

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SECRET EXCISE

I called on the Australian High Commissioner, Sir Eric Harrison. He is aged 68, has been in his post since 1956, and has about another six months here before he will return home. It is a custom in the Australian service to have as High Commissioner in the U.K. and Ambassador in Washington, men who have been Cabinet officers. He has held various Cabinet posts, including Minister for the Army and Minister for the Navy, and was a Liberal member of the Australian House of Representatives for 25 years. He was helpful in giving me counsel about the diplomatic corps here. He says one of the ways to curtail the length of time spent in calling on colleagues is to request them not to return one's initial call. Unfortunately, this does not often work, since the majority of them insist on the double play.

One picks up quite a lot of miscellaneous information in the course of such conversations. Herr von Herwath told me the other day, he had abandoned smoking, since the last time he went skiing, he found that at high altitudes one cannot taste tobacco, and having given up the use of it for several [redacted] days, he had never taken it up again. Chauvel said he never attended a National Day of any of his colleagues, because on July 14, the French Ambassador invited to the Embassy only French nationals and none of the Diplomatic Corps. Consequently, he felt under no obligation to attend his colleagues' yearly celebrations.

The Cuban pickets are still patrolling the front of our building. There are only a handful of them. One of their placards is quite ridiculous. It reads: "Do not make Cuba another Hungary."

[redacted]

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EXCISE

SECRET

By this time the PM was relaxed and his usual charming self. He ordered up a bottle of whisky and we all had a pleasant conversation. I called the President later and finally got to bed about 3 o'clock. The six hour difference in time between Washington and here does not make for convenience in trying to reach accord on common policies.

I sent this evening to George Ball, the following telegram:

"Sent to: Secstate Washington [redacted] - April 26, 1961 - NIACT EYES ONLY - For Undersecretary Ball.

"Returned here this afternoon after two days in Paris. Situation there, because of Algerian insurrection, unfavorable to objective discussion anything else. Saw Monnet and others. Only fruitful ideas were from Monnet. Our talk was prior to end Algerian revolution.